

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. No claims are amended.

Objection to Terminal Disclaimer

The Examiner has found one of the terminal disclaimers for this application to be improper. The Official Action mailed 6 January 2006 included an obviousness type double patenting rejection over application no. 09/699,764, and Applicant submitted a terminal disclaimer to address that rejection. The Examiner's objection does not appear to be addressed to the disclaimer of the '764 application.

Applicant also voluntarily submitted a terminal disclaimer for related case 09/699,756, as a precautionary move, to address any potential issues with obviousness type double patenting over the claims in that case. The 09/699,756 application is already terminally disclaimed in the file for the 09/699,764 application. Accordingly, the disclaimer for the 09/699,756 application is withdrawn as required by the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 1, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci (Pat No. 6,792,527), and further in view of Skruhak et al. (Pat No. 5,412,785). The Examiner states that "Allegrucci does not explicitly talk about the ability to store instructions for a configuration function used to transfer the configuration data from then (sic) configuration memory to the programmable configuration points within the configurable logic array." This comment is a reference to the claim limitations requiring that the "memory" of claim 1 store "instructions for a configuration function used to transfer the configuration data from the configuration memory to the programmable configuration points within the configurable logic array;" and that the processor of claim 1 fetch and execute such instructions. The Examiner relies upon Skruhak et al. to supply these elements not found in Allegrucci. The Examiner cites column 2, line 30 through column 3, line 3 of Skruhak et al. as teaching these features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Skruhak et al. reference does not describe a system that includes "instructions for a configuration function used to transfer the configuration data from the configuration memory to the programmable configuration points..." nor a processor which fetches and executes such instructions as required in claim 1.

The passage cited by the Examiner is the Summary of the Invention in Skruhak et al., and describes a microsequencer comprising a programmable logic array PLA. The PLA in Skruhak et al. is based on a configurable AND-array and a configurable OR-array. There is no discussion in the Skruhak et al. reference of a configuration function for the PLA. There is no configuration memory associated with the PLA in Skruhak et al., into which configuration data is transferred by execution of a configuration load function as claimed. The microinstruction sequencing operations of Skruhak et al., as described in the passage cited by the Examiner, are not related to configuration of the PLA, but rather constitute the mission function of the PLA.

Therefore, the combination of Skruhak et al. with Allegrucci fails to provide a basis for each limitation in claim 1, and is therefore not sufficient to support a prima facie case of unpatentability.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Such claims recite interfaces among the processor, a port in the integrated circuit, the configuration memory and the configuration points in the configurable logic array. The combination of references relied upon does not include a configuration memory at all, and does not support a configuration load function as claimed. Accordingly, the combination does not include a description of the interfaces in these claims.

Applicant notes a comment in the Official Action on page 3, line 22 to page 4, line 5, referring to "Elmer et al." This is an apparent reference to U.S. Patent No. 5,495,593 of record. However, the comment in the Official Action is unclear. Elmer et al. describes programming an EPROM on a microcomputer chip. There is no configurable logic array, no configuration memory and no configuration load function described in Elmer et al.

Claim 1 is directed to a system where the processor executes a program stored in on-chip memory to provide the configuration load function. As described in the application at paragraphs [0014] and [0020] and elsewhere, this structure supports a chip for which "....the configuration load function may be altered in-circuit to adapt to various remote sources of configuration data..." , and where "...the configuration load function includes loading the configuration data

into the configuration memory from remote sources of data through an input port on the system-on-a-chip..." The problem addressed by the present invention is not mentioned in any reference cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 14 and 15 on this basis is requested.

Rejection of Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Agrawal (Pat No. 6,102,963). Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Robb et al. (Pat No. 5,276,839). Claim 5 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Robb et al. (Pat No. 5,276,839). Claim 6 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sun et al. (Pat No. 6,401,221). Claim 7 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Agrawal (Pat No. 6,102,963). Claims 8 and 12 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shukla (Pat No. 6,345,101). Claim 9 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fallon et al. (Pub No 2002/0191692). Claim 10 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lawman (Pat No. 6,028,445). Claim 11 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allegrucci and Skruhak et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Trimberger (Pat No 6,105,105). Claim 13 depends from claim 1, and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at (650) 712-0340.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee determined to be due in connection with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (MXIC 1522-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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